

March 10th, 1959

COCOM Document No. 3442

COORDINATING COMMITTEE

RECORD OF DISCUSSION

ON

A UNITED KINGDOM PROPOSAL CONCERNING REPAIRS AND ALTERATIONS

TO SINO-SOVIET BLOC VESSELS

March 4th, 1959

Present: Belgium(Luxembourg), Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States.

References: COCOM 549, 1145, 3311, 3363, 3376, 3396, 3426.

1. The UNITED KINGDOM Delegate informed the Committee that a Drafting Group had met in accordance with the terms of paragraph 5 of COCOM 3426 to prepare a text embodying the various proposals which had been agreed concerning ship repairs and at the same time bringing up to date the provisions of COCOM 549. Work had proceeded satisfactorily and a text had been prepared for submission to the Committee (see below). The Delegate said that the Drafting Group had been well aware that there were certain other proposals before the Committee concerning an addition to the list of embargo items which may not be installed in a vessel sold to the Sino-Soviet Bloc. In the final text prepared by the Drafting Group therefore reference was made simply to such a list irrespective of the number of embargo items it might contain. The Drafting Group noted that the text which they had prepared would in any event not come into force until agreement had been reached on this problem. Finally the Delegate said that the United Kingdom authorities could accept the text prepared by the Drafting Group.

2. The CHAIRMAN expressed his thanks to the Chairman of the Drafting Group and to all Delegations which who participated in its work and confirmed that the new document, when finally agreed, would not supersede COCOM 549 until agreement was reached on the question of adding Item 1510 to the items listed in Item 1416(e).

3. The COMMITTEE decided to hear the views of Governments on the text prepared by the Drafting Group on March 12th.

Text prepared by the Drafting Group

Ships and Shipping

1. This document deals with various matters, relating to vessels, which are not dealt with in the International Lists. It supersedes the Annexes to COCOM 549.

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2. Repairs and Alterations to Sino-Soviet Bloc vessels in Western shipyards.

The following should not be installed:

- (a) Munitions List Items
- (b) List I items which may not be installed in a vessel sold to the Sino-Soviet Bloc
- (c) Arrangements for demagnetisation.

3. Any work which would lead to transforming a vessel into one appearing on List I or the Munitions List should be prohibited, except that the speed of a vessel may be increased by up to 10% even if the increase would confer embargo status on the vessel.

4. In any case where paragraph 2 above conflicts with national law or with the requirements of classification societies or international treaties, conventions or usages, it is understood that exceptions to the foregoing will be necessary. Where exceptions are made the Committee should be informed.

5. Chartering of Western vessels to the Sino-Soviet Bloc.

The objectives of the controls on the sale of vessels should not be frustrated by bare-boat chartering. Bearing in mind that an operation of this nature might have the same disadvantages from the strategic point of view as the sale of a vessel, Governments agree to undertake such steps as may be possible to prevent the chartering of any embargo type vessels under bare-boat arrangements.

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